



Virginia Green Partner Profile:



Red Dot Public Relations Virginia Beach, Virginia

Virginia Green is the Commonwealth of Virginia's campaign to promote environmentally-friendly practices in all aspects of Virginia's tourism industry. **Virginia Green** has established "core activities" specific to each sector of tourism, and these practices are considered the required minimum for participation in the program. However, **Virginia Green** encourages its participants to reduce their environmental impacts in all aspects of their operations; and this profile provides a full list of all their "green" activities.

Virginia Green Partners are primarily committing to help support **Virginia Green** and encourage their customers to join or do business with Virginia Green-certified participants. Although not necessarily tourism facilities themselves, Partners are expected to practice green activities in their own facilities as well!

Red Dot Public Relations

"We are a boutique, full-service marketing and public relations agency. We work with a variety of industries and clients and have over 17 years of experience. We specialize in Green Marketing, Corporate Social Responsibility, Community Affairs, and Crisis Communications."

Green Statement: "We have always been involved in the green movement. Our President and Founder, Kimberly Pepper, had moved to Hampton Roads from Seattle, where she was actively involved in eco-friendly programs - hence, this passion has transferred to our mission and goals as an agency and now have a practice unit called Go Green With Red."

CORE ACTIVITIES for all *Virginia Green Partner Organizations*

- ☒ **Support Virginia Green.** Partners must promote the Virginia Green Program to clients, members, and staff and encourage them to do business with Virginia Green participants. This partner organization pledges that they:
 - Encourage clients who are in the tourism industry to join Virginia Green.
 - Strive to design projects that minimize overall environmental impacts and incorporate the use of efficient systems and sustainable materials.
 - Carry and promote environmentally-friendly products and provide services that minimize the use of harmful chemicals and materials.
 - Have a travel / conference policy that encourages employees to stay in / do business with Virginia Green or similarly-minded facilities.
 - Send out emails or mailers to their membership about Virginia Green.
 - Made an official Virginia Green Endorsement of some kind through their Board or other Committee to support Virginia Green.
 - Set a goal for recruiting their member facilities.
 - Include a Virginia Green feature in their newsletter or other publication.
 - Display the Virginia Green certificate prominently in their facility / offices and use the Virginia Green window decals.
 - Use the Virginia Green logo on signage pointing out recycling or other "green" improvements in your facility.
 - Highlight their involvement in Virginia Green on their website and include a link to their Virginia Green facility profile

☒ **Green Meetings and Conferences.** When Virginia Green Partners hold meetings or conferences they must provide recycling and make an effort to reduce the use of Styrofoam and other disposables. This partner pledges that they:

- Have conferences at a Virginia Green Lodging facility, and let the facility know that they want a "green event!"
- Minimize copying and always make 2-sided copies
- Have eliminated the use of Styrofoam cups and plates; instead they use actual mugs
- Use silverware instead of plastic utensils
- Use non-bleached napkins or maintain a supply of cloth napkins
- Serve water in pitchers and glassware instead of bottles; serve bulk sodas, etc.

☒ **Recycling and Waste Reduction.** Virginia Green Partners are highly encouraged to maintain a comprehensive recycling program if they have a facility. This partner pledges that they:

- Recycle: glass, aluminum cans, steel cans, food waste (composting), grease, plastic, office paper, toner cartridges, newspaper, cardboard, packing supplies, fluorescent lamps, batteries, electronic equipment
- Have numeric goal to reduce overall materials that go to the landfill
- Use bulk soap dispensers instead of individual soaps
- Purchase recycled-content paper towels and toilet paper
- Encourage suppliers to minimize packaging and other waste materials
- Purchase from vendors and service providers with a commitment to the environment
- Make 2-sided copies/ printed materials
- Use electronic correspondence and forms
- Use "green" cleaners that are dispensed in bulk
- Purchase durable equipment and furniture
- Purchase low VOC carpets and fabrics
- Use reused building materials or those from sustainable sources
- Perform preventative maintenance on all appliances, HVAC systems, plumbing, and vehicles
- Use less toxic materials
- Minimize the use of pesticides and herbicides
- Use a nutrient management plan that minimizes the use of fertilizers
- Use integrated pest management (IPM)

☒ **Water Conservation.** Virginia Green partners are highly encouraged to have a plan for conserving water in their facility that should consider plumbing modifications and landscaping. This partner pledges that they:

- Perform preventative maintenance to stop drips and leaks
- Have:
 - high efficiency dishwashers
 - low flow toilets
- Discourage water-based cleanup (sweeping first) and use microfiber technology mops

☒ **Energy Efficiency.** Virginia Green partners are highly encouraged a plan in place that encourages replacement of lighting and equipment to energy-efficient alternatives in their facility. This partner pledges that they:

- Use:
 - high efficiency fluorescent ballasts and lamps (T5s and T8s)
 - ceiling fans
- Use natural lighting
- Purchase ENERGY STAR computers, copiers, and appliances
- Use ENERGY STAR's Benchmarking Tools for the Hospitality Industry

For more information on *Virginia Green*, see <http://www.deq.state.va.us/p2/viriniagreen/homepage.html> or go to www.viriniagreentravel.org.



Virginia Green is the Commonwealth's campaign to encourage environmentally-friendly practices in all aspects of Virginia's tourism industry. *Virginia Green* is supported through a partnership between the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Virginia Hospitality & Travel Association, and the Virginia Tourism Corporation.

